

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action.

Currently, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 12 and 15-23 are pending in the present application, and claims 1 and 15 are independent. Claims 1 and 23 have been amended and claims 8 and 9 have been canceled. Also, claims 15-22 have been withdrawn. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the current rejection are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

CLAIM REJECTION - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-12 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoi et al. (US 6,331,384, hereinafter Satoi '384) and Fairbairn et al. (US 6,176,667, hereinafter Fairbairn '667).

Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 8 and 9. In particular, amended independent claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "the drying part includes a dry table including a hot plate emitting heat to dry the alignment layer printed on the substrate by emitting heat".

The Office Action states at page 7 that col. 10, lines 62-65 and col. 9, lines 47-50 of Satoi '384 teach the features of claims 8 and 9. However, nowhere in such applied art discloses the drying part includes a dry table including a hot plate emitting heat to dry the alignment layer printed on the substrate by emitting heat.

Specifically, the Examiner indicates at page 10 of the Office Action that printing part 52, drying part 208, transferring part, and inkjet head 55 at coloring stages of Satoi '384 correspond to the claimed printing part, drying part, transferring part, and inkjet head, respectively. Thus, col. 9 lines 47-50 of Satoi '384 disclosing that a hot plate is used to dry organic materials during washing stage cannot be a corresponding to the claimed hot plate.

Indeed, “coloring unit” of Satoi ‘384 discloses that “the drying apparatus (208) has the form of an oven ...” (see col. 10, lines 63-64), and “the heating apparatus 209 has the form of an oven ...” (see col. 11, lines 5-6). That is, the oven of Satoi ‘384 is a drying unit using hot air, whereas the hot plate of the present invention is a drying unit using hot flat thing. Therefore, the oven of Satoi ‘384 and the hot plate of the present invention are a different apparatus. Thus, the claimed invention is patentably distinct from Satoi ‘384.

Further, the deficiencies of Satoi ‘384 cannot be cured by Fairbairn ‘667 since Fairbairn ‘667 fails to disclose or suggest even the claimed drying unit.

As discussed above, the present invention is not obvious over the applied references individually or in combination.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance and therefore requests favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kyung Sook (Kay) Chang, Reg. No. 56,946 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

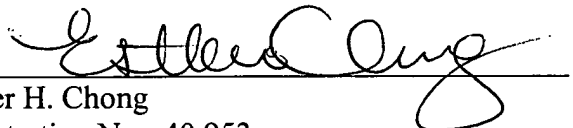
Application No. 10/687,776
Amendment dated February 16, 2010
Reply to the Office Action of November 16, 2009

Docket No.: 0465-0990P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 16, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Esther H. Chong
Registration No.: 40,953
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant